

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing cameras to consumers in exchange
2 for a commitment, the method comprising the steps of:
3 creating a contractual interface relationship between to couple a camera
4 provider and with a consumer where to provide said consumer
5 acquires with at least one camera via said contractual interface in
6 exchange for said commitment, wherein said contractual interface
7 relationship having functions by terms for:
8 offering by said camera provider to provide via said contractual
9 interface said camera for a commitment by the consumer to
10 purchase at least a first amount of image reproductions via said
11 contractual interface within a selected amount of time, and
12 committing by said consumer to purchase at least the first amount of
13 image reproductions via said contractual interface within the
14 selected amount of time;

15 determining via said contractual interface that the consumer has at least
16 one of a plurality of financial instruments;

17 providing the consumer via said contractual interface with the camera, in
18 response to the consumer entering into the commitment and
19 determining via said contractual interface that said consumer has at
20 least one of the plurality financial instruments;

21 restricting access to images acquired by the camera to prevent the
22 consumer from obtaining reproductions of the images made from a
23 source not associated with the camera provider;

24 transferring via said contractual interface from said consumer images
25 acquired by said camera to an image processor; and

26 restricting access to images acquired from the camera to prevent the
27 consumer from obtaining reproductions of the images made from a
28 source not associated with the camera provider; and

29 Printing reproductions of at least one of the images having restricted
30 access.

1 2. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in Claim 1, further comprising the
2 step of allowing granting access to images taken with the camera to be displayed
3 on a camera display.

1 3. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in Claim 1, further comprising the
2 step of allowing granting access to low resolution versions of images taken with
3 the camera to be transferred from the camera.

1 4. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in Claim 1, further comprising the
2 steps of:

3 receiving an order via said contractual interface for an at least one image
4 print from someone other than the consumer; and

5 crediting via said contractual interface the consumer's commitment
6 fulfillment based on the order.

1 5. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in Claim 1, further comprising the
2 steps of:

3 receiving an order via said contractual interface for an image reproduction
4 from someone other than the consumer; and

5 providing via said contractual interface the consumer with a benefit based
6 on the order.

1 6. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in Claim 1, wherein ~~the secured first~~
2 ~~at least one~~ image is received from a terminal to which ~~the first at least one of~~
3 said images has been transferred from the camera.

1 7. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in Claim 1, wherein access to said
2 images taken by the camera are is secured-restricted by the camera until the
3 consumer has fulfilled the commitment and an unlocking code has been received
4 via said contractual interface by the camera.

1 8. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in Claim 1, further comprising the
2 step of receiving in association with ~~the first secured~~ at least one of said images
3 with restricted access, at least one of ISO equivalency information, aperture
4 setting information, and shutter speed information.

1 9. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in Claim 1, wherein the camera is
2 provided via said contractual interface, at least partly, in response to an amount
3 paid by the consumer for the camera, wherein the amount is related to the
4 number of reproductions the consumer has committed to purchase via said
5 contractual interface.

1 10. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a camera to a user, the method
2 comprising the steps of:
3 creating a contractual interface relationship between to couple a camera
4 provider and with a consumer, wherein said contractual relationship
5 interface having functions by terms for:
6 offering by a camera provider said camera via said contractual
7 interface for a commitment to purchase at least a first amount of

8 image reproductions provided via said contractual interface within a
9 selected amount of time, and
10 receiving a commitment via said contractual interface by the user to
11 purchase via said contractual interface at least the first amount of
12 image reproductions; and
13 determining via said contractual interface that the consumer has at least
14 one of a plurality of financial instruments;
15 providing the user via said contractual interface with the camera at least
16 partly in response to the user entering into the commitment and
17 determining via said contractual interface that said consumer has at
18 least one of the plurality financial instruments.

1 11. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in Claim 10, further comprising
2 storing camera usage information in a user information database, whereby said
3 camera usage information includes:
4 average number of pictures captured before upload of pictures,
5 average number of pictures captured vs. number of pictures printed,
6 time of day or year when camera is most likely to be used and frequency
7 of flash usage,
8 amount of time spent viewing each image on the LCD viewfinder,

9 amount of time spent editing each image on-camera,
10 number of images captured over a given time period,
11 typical or average preferences for print numbers, sizes, and other
12 products ordered,
13 track which advertisements/promotions the user investigated or generated
14 a "click-through" experience,
15 track how many different locations to which the user had prints shipped.
16 track the user classification of a photo gallery.

1 12. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in Claim 11, further comprising
2 the step of selecting advertising to be presented to the user based at least in part
3 on the camera usage information.

1 13. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in Claim 11, further comprising
2 the step of modifying camera performance based at least in part on the camera
3 usage information.

1 14. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in Claim 10, further comprising
2 the step of predicting camera battery life based, at least in part, on the number of
3 pictures taken with the camera during a predetermined time period.

1 15. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in Claim 10, further comprising
2 the step of predicting when camera memory will be full based, at least in part, on

3 the number of pictures taken with the camera during a predetermined time
4 period.

1 16. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in Claim 10, further comprising
2 the step of modifying camera energy management based, at least in part, on the
3 number of pictures taken with the camera during a predetermined time period.

1 17. (Original) The method as defined in Claim 11, wherein at least a portion of the
2 camera usage information is stored in camera memory.

1 18. (Original) The method as defined in Claim 11, wherein at least a portion of the
2 camera usage information is stored on a server associated with a Web site.

1 19. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in Claim 10, further comprising
2 the step of encrypting by the camera of at least a first image captured by said
3 camera to prevent the user from having prints of at least the first image from a
4 source not associated with a provider of said camera.

1 20. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in Claim 10, wherein the type of
2 camera provided is based, at least in part, on the extent of the commitment.

1 21. (Original) The method as defined in Claim 10, wherein the first amount is a dollar
2 amount.

1 22. (Original) The method as defined in Claim 10, wherein the first amount is a
2 quantity of image reproductions.

1 23. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in Claim 10, further comprising
2 the steps of:

3 receiving user profile information; and

4 storing at least a portion of the user profile information in the camera.

1 24. (Original) The method as defined in Claim 10, wherein the commitment is to be
2 fulfilled within a predetermined amount of time.

1 25. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in Claim 24, further comprising the
2 step of fixing the price to the user of at least a first type of image reproduction
3 provided via said contractual interface for at least the predetermined amount of
4 time.

1 26. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in Claim 10, further comprising the
2 step of receiving an order via said contractual interface for hard copy image
3 reproductions, where the user places the order using a camera user interface.

1 27. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in Claim 10, further comprising the
2 step of receiving an order via said contractual interface for hard copy image
3 reproductions over a network.

1 28. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in Claim 10, further comprising
2 the step of receiving over a network images taken with the camera and receiving
3 camera setting information associated with the images.

1 29. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in Claim 10, further comprising
2 the step of downloading an advertisement into the camera and displaying the
3 advertisement on a camera display.

1 30. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in Claim 10, further comprising
2 the step of receiving a designation from the user as to which print house is to
3 print images ordered by the user.

1 31. (Original) The method as defined in Claim 10, wherein the camera is provided by
2 a print house.

3 32. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in Claim 10, wherein the camera is
4 provided by a camera manufacturer to an intermediary at a discount, who then
5 provides the camera to the user, and the intermediary causes the camera
6 manufacturer to be paid an amount based at least in part on user orders via said
7 contractual interface for image reproductions.

1 33. (Original) The method as defined in Claim 10, wherein the camera is provided
2 with no initial cost or charge to the user.

1 34. (Original) The method as defined in Claim 10, wherein the camera is provided at
2 a reduced cost to the user in exchange for the commitment.

1 35. (Currently Amended) A method for providing at least one camera, comprising:

2 creating a contractual interface to couple relationship between a camera
3 distributor and with a consumer, said contractual interface relationship
4 having functions by terms of:
5 offering via said contractual interface for to rent at least one camera to
6 a user in exchange for a first fee;
7 offering via said contractual interface to reduce said first fee for said
8 camera for a commitment to purchase via said contractual interface
9 at least a first amount of reproductions of images from said camera;
10 and
11 committing by said consumer via said contractual interface of the
12 purchase via said contractual interface of at least the first amount of
13 image reproductions within the selected amount of time;
14 receiving at a computer via said contractual interface at least one image
15 taken with the camera;
16 receiving an order via said contractual interface for a reproduction of the at
17 least one image;
18 creating said reproduction of the at least one image; and
19 applying at least a portion of the first fee towards the cost of the order.

1 36. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in Claim 35, wherein the camera is
2 rented via said contractual interface at an automated kiosk.

1 37. (Original) The method as defined in Claim 35, wherein the user is charged an
2 additional fee if the camera is not returned within a predetermined amount of
3 time.

1 38. (Original) The method as defined in Claim 35, wherein the computer is located
2 remotely from where the camera was rented.

1 39. (Original) The method as defined in Claim 35, wherein an additional fee is
2 charged for orders costing more than the first fee.

1 40. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a camera, comprising:
2 creating a contractual interface relationship between to couple a camera
3 distributor and-with a consumer, said contractual interface relationship
4 having functions by terms of for:
5 offering via said contractual interface by a camera distributor said
6 camera for a commitment by the consumer to purchase at least a
7 first amount of image reproductions via said contractual interface
8 within a selected amount of time,

9 committing via said contractual interface by said consumer of the
10 purchase of at least the first amount of image reproductions within
11 the selected amount of time, and
12 receiving by said camera distributor said camera from a camera
13 manufacturer at a first price;
14 providing via said contractual interface the camera to a consumer at a
15 second price;
16 receiving payment via said contractual interface from the consumer for
17 image reproductions of images captured with the camera;
18 providing via said contractual interface said reproductions of images to
19 said consumer; and
20 paying the camera manufacturer at least a first amount based at least in
21 part on the payment received from the consumer.

1 41. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in Claim 40, where the camera
2 manufacturer provides the camera at a discount in return for a commitment on
3 the part of the distributor that the camera manufacturer will be paid at least said
4 first amount.

1 42. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a camera to a user, the method
2 comprising:

3 creating a contractual interface to couple a camera lessor with a
4 consumer, said contractual interface functions by terms for:
5 offering via said contractual interface to lease said camera for a
6 predetermined period wherein said lease includes providing via
7 said contractual interface the user with a first number of prints at no
8 additional cost as part of the lease, and
9 receiving a commitment via said contractual interface by the user to
10 lease the camera for the predetermined period;
11 providing via said contractual interface the user with the first number of
12 prints at no additional cost as part of the lease; and
13 providing via said contractual interface additional prints beyond the first
14 number of prints for no more than a predetermined fee.

1 43. (Currently Amended) The method of providing a camera to a user as defined in
2 Claim 42, further comprising providing via said contractual interface the camera
3 to the user.

1 44. (Original) The method of providing a camera to a user as defined in Claim 42,
2 further comprising selling the camera to the user after a first period.

1 45. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in Claim 1 wherein the step of
2 securing-restricting access to said first-images comprises the step of encrypting
3 said first-images within said camera.

1 46. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in Claim 1 further comprising the
2 steps of:

3 transferring personal information via said contractual interface from said
4 consumer to said camera provider; and

5 retaining said personal information within a consumer database.

1 47. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in Claim 46 wherein said personal
2 information comprises

3 consumer name:

4 consumer identification code;

5 mailing address;

6 **billing address;**

7 e-mail address;

8 other contact in

9 billing information, including credit card information;

19 preferred print image provider:

reprint / enlargement size pref

12 reprint / enlargement size preference;
13 finish preference;
14 camera brand, type, and specifications;
15 internet service type and connection speed;
16 contract data: picture development and reproduction counters,
17 number of prints remaining to meet contract commitment;
18 security settings, unlocking keys, activation code; and
19 usage pattern information.

1 48. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in Claim 46 further comprising the
2 step of providing advertising via said contractual interface to said consumer
3 based on said personal information.

1 49. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in Claim 46 further comprising the
2 step of providing coupons via said contractual interface to said consumer based
3 on said personal information.

1 50. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in Claim 1 wherein the camera
2 provider discounts the price of said camera for commitment by said consumer to
3 the purchase of at least the first amount of image reproductions.

1 51. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in Claim 1 wherein the camera
2 provider leases via said contractual interface said camera for the commitment
3 from said consumer to the purchase of at least the first amount of image
4 reproductions.

1 52. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in Claim 1 wherein the camera
2 provider provides via said contractual interface said camera at no cost for
3 commitment by said consumer to the purchase of at least the first amount of
4 image reproductions.

1 53. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in Claim 1 wherein the camera
2 provider and the image processor are associated with the camera manufacturer.

1 54. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in Claim 1 further comprising the
2 step of:

3 reviewing by the consumer of said images acquired by said camera; and
4 selecting desired images acquired by said camera for reproduction.

1 55. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in Claim 54 wherein said images
2 acquired by said camera are retained in an image database of said image
3 processor.

1 56. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in Claim 23 wherein said user
2 information comprises:

3 user name;

4 user identification code;

5 mailing address;

6 billing address;

7 e-mail address;

8 other contact information such as phone numbers and fax numbers;

9 billing information, including credit card information;

10 preferred print image provider;

11 reprint / enlargement size preference;

12 reprint / enlargement size preference;

13 finish preference;

14 camera brand, type, and specifications;

15 internet service type and connection speed;

16 contract data: picture development and reproduction counters,

17 number of prints remaining to meet contract commitment;

18 security settings, unlocking keys, activation code; and

19 usage pattern information.

1 57. (Previously Presented) A camera distribution system for providing cameras to
2 consumers in exchange for a commitment comprising:

3 a camera provider offering at least one of said cameras for a commitment
4 by the consumer to purchase at least a first amount of image
5 reproductions;

6 a contractual interface between said camera provider and said consumer
7 wherein said consumer commits to purchase of at least the first
8 amount of image reproductions within the selected amount of time and
9 the camera provider provides the consumer with at least one of the
10 cameras, in response to the consumer entering into the commitment;

11 an image processor in communication with said consumer to receive
12 images acquired by said camera to an image processor;

13 an image securing device associated with said camera to prevent
14 reproduction of at least a first image acquired from the camera by a
15 source not associated with the camera provider;

16 an image printing device associated with said image processor for
17 reproduction the secured first image.

1 58. (Previously Presented) The camera distribution system as defined in Claim 57,
2 wherein images taken with the camera are permitted to be displayed on a
3 camera display.

1 59. (Previously Presented) The camera distribution system as defined in Claim 57,
2 wherein low resolution versions of images taken with the camera are permitted to
3 be transferred from the camera.

1 60. (Previously Presented) The camera distribution system as defined in Claim 57,
2 wherein the image processor receives an order for an image print from someone
3 other than the consumer; and said image processor credits the consumer's
4 commitment fulfillment based on the order.

1 61. (Previously Presented) The camera distribution system as defined in Claim 57,
2 wherein the image processor receives an order for an image reproduction from
3 someone other than the consumer; and said image processor provides the
4 consumer a benefit based on the order.

1 62. (Previously Presented) The camera distribution system as defined in Claim 57,
2 wherein the secured first image is received from a terminal to which the first
3 image has been transferred from the camera.

1 63. (Previously Presented) The camera distribution system as defined in Claim 57,
2 wherein images taken by the camera are secured by the camera until the

3 consumer has fulfilled the commitment and an unlocking code has been received
4 by the camera.

1 64. (Previously Presented) The camera distribution system as defined in Claim 57,
2 wherein the image processor receives in association with the first secured image
3 at least one of ISO equivalency information, aperture setting information, and
4 shutter speed information.

1 65. (Previously Presented) The camera distribution system as defined in Claim 57,
2 wherein the camera provided is at least partly in response to an amount paid by
3 the consumer for the camera, wherein the amount is related to the number of
4 reproductions the consumer committed to purchase.

1 66. (Previously Presented) The camera distribution system as defined in Claim 57
2 wherein the image securing devise encrypts said first image within said camera.

1 67. (Previously Presented) The camera distribution system as defined in Claim 57
2 further comprising:

3 a consumer database in communication with the camera provider
4 retaining personal information transferred from said consumer to said
5 camera provider.

1 68. (Previously Presented) The camera distribution system as defined in Claim 67
2 wherein said personal information comprises:

3 consumer name;

4 consumer identification code;

5 mailing address;

6 billing address;

7 e-mail address;

8 other contact information such as phone numbers and fax numbers;

9 billing information, including credit card information;

10 preferred print image provider;

11 reprint / enlargement size preference;

12 reprint / enlargement size preference;

13 finish preference;

14 camera brand, type, and specifications;

15 internet service type and connection speed;

16 contract data: picture development and reproduction counters,

17 number of prints remaining to meet contract commitment;

18 security settings, unlocking keys, activation code; and

19 usage pattern information.

1 69. (Previously Presented) The camera distribution system as defined in Claim 67
2 further comprising an advertising provider in communication with the consumer
3 database and said consumer to convey advertising information to said consumer
4 based on said personal information through said image reproductions in return
5 for credit toward said commitment for image reproductions.

1 70. (Previously Presented) The camera distribution system as defined in Claim 69
2 wherein the advertising provider imparts coupons to said consumer based on
3 said personal information.

1 71. (Previously Presented) The camera distribution system as defined in Claim 57
2 wherein the camera provider discounts the price of said camera for the
3 commitment by said consumer to purchase at least the first amount of image
4 reproductions.

1 72. (Previously Presented) The camera distribution system as defined in Claim 57
2 wherein the camera provider leases said camera as a result of the commitment
3 by said consumer to the purchase of at least the first amount of image
4 reproductions.

1 73. (Previously Presented) The camera distribution system as defined in Claim 57
2 wherein the camera provider offers said camera at no cost as a result of the
3 commitment by said consumer to the purchase of at least the first amount of
4 image reproductions.

1 74. (Previously Presented) The camera distribution system as defined in Claim 57
2 wherein the camera provider and the image processor are associated with the
3 camera manufacturer.

1 75. (Previously Presented) The camera distribution system as defined in Claim 57
2 wherein the consumer reviews said images acquired by said camera and selects
3 desired images acquired by said camera for transfer to said image processor for
4 reproduction.

1 76. (Previously Presented) The camera distribution system as defined in Claim 75
2 further comprising an image database associated with said image processor to
3 receive and retain said images acquired by said camera and transferred to said
4 image processor.

1 77. (Previously Presented) A medium for retaining a computer code which, when
2 executed on a computing system performs a program process for providing
3 cameras to consumers in exchange for a commitment, said program process
4 comprising the steps of:

5 creating a contractual relationship between a camera provider and a
6 consumer where said consumer acquires at least one camera in
7 exchange for said commitment, wherein said contractual relationship
8 having terms for:

9 offering by said camera provider to provide said camera for a
10 commitment by the consumer to purchase at least a first amount of
11 image reproductions within a selected amount of time, and
12 committing by said consumer to the purchase of at least the first
13 amount of image reproductions within the selected amount of time;
14 determining that the consumer has at least one of a plurality of financial
15 instruments;
16 providing the consumer with the camera, in response to the consumer
17 entering into the commitment and determining that the consumer has
18 at least one of the plurality of financial instruments;
19 transferring images acquired by said camera to an image processor;
20 restricting access to images acquired from the camera to prevent the
21 consumer from obtaining reproductions of images made from a source
22 not associated with the camera provider; and
23 printing reproductions of at least one of images having restricted access.

1 78. (Previously Presented) The medium as defined in Claim 77, wherein said
2 program process further comprises allowing images taken with the camera to be
3 displayed on a camera display.

1 79. (Previously Presented) The medium as defined in Claim 77, wherein said
2 program process further comprises allowing low resolution versions of images
3 taken with the camera to be transferred from the camera.

1 80. (Previously Presented) The medium as defined in Claim 77, wherein said
2 program process further comprises:

3 receiving an order for an image print from someone other than the
4 consumer; and

5 crediting the consumer's commitment fulfillment based on the order.

1 81. (Previously Presented) The medium as defined in Claim 77, wherein said
2 program process further comprises:

3 receiving an order for an image reproduction from someone other than the
4 consumer; and

5 providing the consumer a benefit based on the order.

1 82. (Previously Presented) The medium as defined in Claim 77, wherein the secured
2 first image is received from a terminal to which the first image has been
3 transferred from the camera.

1 83. (Previously Presented) The medium as defined in Claim 77, wherein images
2 taken by the camera are secured by the camera until the consumer has fulfilled
3 the commitment and an unlocking code has been received by the camera.

1 84. (Previously Presented) The medium as defined in Claim 77, wherein said
2 program process further comprises receiving, in association with the first secured
3 image, at least one of ISO equivalency information, aperture setting information,
4 and shutter speed information.

1 85. (Previously Presented) The medium as defined in Claim 77, wherein the camera
2 is provided, at least partly, in response to an amount paid by the consumer for
3 the camera, wherein the amount is related to the number of reproductions the
4 consumer committed to purchase.

1 86. (Previously Presented) The medium as defined in Claim 77 wherein the step of
2 securing said first image comprises the step of encrypting said first image within
3 said camera.

1 87. (Previously Presented) The medium as defined in Claim 77 wherein said
2 program process further comprises the steps of:
3 transferring personal information from said consumer to said camera
4 provider; and
5 retaining said personal information within a consumer database.

1 88. (Previously Presented) The medium as defined in Claim 87 wherein said
2 personal information is selected from the set of personal information consisting
3 of:

4 consumer name;

5 consumer identification code;

6 mailing address;

7 billing address;

8 e-mail address;

9 other contact information such as phone numbers and fax numbers;

10 billing information, including credit card information;

11 preferred print image provider;

12 reprint / enlargement size preference;

13 finish preference;

14 camera brand, type, and specifications;

15 internet service type and connection speed;

16 contract data: picture development and reproduction counters, number
17 of prints remaining to meet contract commitment;

18 security settings, unlocking keys, activation code; and

19 usage pattern information.

1 89. (Previously Presented) The medium as defined in Claim 87 wherein said
2 program process further comprises the step of providing advertising to said
3 consumer based on said personal information.

1 90. (Previously Presented) The medium as defined in Claim 87 wherein said
2 program process further comprises the step of providing coupons to said
3 consumer based on said personal information.

1 91. (Previously Presented) The medium as defined in Claim 77 wherein the camera
2 provider discounts the price of said camera for committing by said consumer to
3 the purchase of at least the first amount of image reproductions.

1 92. (Previously Presented) The medium as defined in Claim 77 wherein the camera
2 provider leases said camera for committing by said consumer to the purchase of
3 at least the first amount of image reproductions.

1 93. (Previously Presented) The medium as defined in Claim 77 wherein the camera
2 provider provides said camera at no cost for committing by said consumer to the
3 purchase of at least the first amount of image reproductions.

1 94. (Previously Presented) The medium as defined in Claim 77 wherein the camera
2 provider and the image processor are associated with the camera manufacturer.

1 95. (Previously Presented) The medium as defined in Claim 77 wherein said
2 program process further comprises the step of:

3 reviewing, by the consumer, of said images acquired by said
4 camera; and

5 selecting desired images acquired by said camera for reproduction.